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Fifty-first session
Agenda item 74

THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/73 of 12 December 1995 entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", the operative part of which, inter alia, reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "2. Calls upon Israel and all other States of the region that are not yet party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and to accede to the Treaty at the earliest date;
>
> "3. Calls upon the States of the region that have not yet done so to place all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;
>
> "4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;
>
> "..."

2. The present report is being submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of the above resolution. Apart from the material forwarded by the International Atomic Energy Agency (see annex), the Secretary-General has not received any additional information since the submission of his last report on the subject (A/50/513) to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

ANNEX

Resolution GC(40)/RES/22 of 20 September 1996 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Conference,

(a) Recognizing the importance of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons - both globally and regionally - in enhancing international peace and security,

(b) Mindful of the usefulness of the Agency's safeguards systems as a reliable means of verification of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

(c) Concerned by the grave consequences, endangering peace and security, of the presence in the Middle East region of nuclear activities not wholly devoted to peaceful purposes,

(d) Welcoming the initiatives regarding the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East and recent initiatives regarding arms control in the region,

(e) Recognizing that full realization of these objectives would be promoted by participation of all States of the region,

(f) Commending the efforts of the Agency concerning the application of safeguards in the Middle East and the positive response of some States in concluding a full-scope safeguards agreement, and

(g) Recalling its resolution GC(39)/RES/24,

1. Takes note of the Director General's report in document GOV/2861GC(40)/6;

2. Affirms the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important confidence-building measure among all States in the region and as a step in enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

3. Calls upon all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and appropriate steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a mutually and effectively verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, and invites the countries concerned to adhere to international non-proliferation regimes, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as a means of complementing participation in a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and of strengthening peace and security in the region;

4. Takes note of the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms

Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and calls upon the Director General, as requested by the participants, to render all necessary assistance to the Working Group in promoting that objective;

5. Requests the Director General to continue consultations with the States of the Middle East to facilitate the early application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region as relevant to the preparation of model agreements, as a necessary step towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, referred to in resolution GC(37)/RES/627;

6. Calls upon all States in the region to extend their fullest cooperation to the Director General in the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to him in the preceding paragraph;

7. Further calls upon all States in the region to take measures, including confidence-building and verification measures, aimed at establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

8. Calls upon all other States, especially those with a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to render all assistance to the Director General by facilitating the implementation of this resolution; and

9. Requests the Director General to submit to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its forty-first regular session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in the provisional agenda for that session an item entitled "Application of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards in the Middle East".

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Agenda items 33 and 35
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 2 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a declaration issued on 1 October by the Council of Ministers of the European Union on the subject of the Middle East peace process (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) John H. F. CAMPBELL
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration made on 1 October 1996 by the European Union on the Middle East peace process

[Original: English and French]

The Council of Ministers of the European Union is appalled by the recent violence and the resulting casualties in Jerusalem and throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It offers its sincere condolences to the families of those Palestinians and Israelis who have lost their lives, and its sympathy to the injured.

The European Union strongly calls upon both parties to abide by United Nations Security Council resolution 1073 (1996) of 28 September 1996. The European Union calls upon both the Israeli authorities and the Palestinians to exercise the utmost restraint and to refrain from any actions or words that might lead to further violence. It urges both sides to avoid resorting to disproportionate force, in particular the use of firearms, tanks and helicopter gunships. It calls on the Government of Israel to prevent its forces from re-entering autonomous areas in Zone A, contrary to the spirit and the letter of the Interim Agreement. It further calls on the Palestinian Authority to exert full control over Palestinian forces and to maintain calm in the autonomous area.

The Troika has discussed the Union's concerns at meetings in New York with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and in Luxembourg with President Yasser Arafat.

The European Union recognizes that the recent incidents were precipitated by frustration and exasperation at the absence of any real progress in the peace process and firmly believes that the absence of such progress is the root of the unrest. It calls on Israel to match its stated commitment to the peace process with concrete actions to fulfil its obligations, as well as to refrain from any action likely to create mistrust about its intentions.

The Union notes that the particular events that triggered the current crisis concerned the fears of Palestinians that their position in Jerusalem was being further eroded. The Union recalls that parties have agreed, under the terms of the Declaration of Principles, not to take any action that would prejudge the outcome of the permanent status negotiations. It will work to ensure that this commitment is implemented by both sides. Following Security Council resolution 1073 (1996), the Union believes that it would help greatly to restore calm and confidence if the Hasmonean tunnel in Jerusalem were restored to its original state. It furthermore calls for the cessation and reversal of all acts that may affect the status of the Holy Places in Jerusalem.

The European Union reaffirms its policy on the status of Jerusalem. East Jerusalem is subject to the principles set out in Security Council resolution 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, notably the inadmissibility of the acquisition

of territory by force, and is therefore not under Israeli sovereignty. The Union asserts that the Fourth Geneva Convention is fully applicable to East Jerusalem, as it is to other territories under occupation.

The Council stresses the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement, which is based on a common commitment to the peace process. In this context it calls on Israel to give clear practical demonstration of its confirmed intention to implement fully the agreements already reached with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Union believes that urgent progress in the following areas is crucial to the peace process:

(a) Timely implementation of the agreements reached, including completion of the first phase of Israel's troop redeployment, notably from Hebron, and the release of Palestinian prisoners;

(b) Positive steps to alleviate the economic plight of the Palestinians, including the early lifting of the closures, guaranteeing safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank and the lifting of obstacles to international aid efforts and the realization of infrastructural projects (e.g. Gaza airport, Gaza harbour, industrial zones);

(c) Resumption of full cooperation in order to ensure internal security both in Israel and the areas under Palestinian authority;

(d) Refraining from measures that prejudice the outcome of the final status negotiations, including annexation of land, demolition of houses, new settlement construction and expansion of settlements;

(e) Engagement of the next stage of negotiations as set down in the Declaration of Principles.

The Union welcomes the initiative to host a meeting in Washington between the parties. It hopes this meeting will lead to the recommencement of constructive negotiations on the basis of the principles of Madrid and the terms of the Declaration of Principles.

The security partnership that was created between Israel and the Palestinians has been one of the main achievements of the peace process. We call on both sides to dedicate themselves to recovering the trust and cooperation that epitomized the spirit of the peace process. Now more than ever the Union encourages the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to cooperate at all levels. Good neighbourly policies are indispensable to Israel's security in the long term. That security can be found only on the basis of a renewed partnership between Israel and its Palestinian neighbours.

As it declared at the Florence European Council in June 1996, peace in the Middle East is a vital interest of the European Union. Accordingly, the Union is ready to play an active part in efforts to recommence the negotiations,

commensurate with its interests in the region, and on the basis of its major contribution to the peace process so far. The Union is currently preparing a Ministerial Troika visit to the Middle East for talks with the main parties in the peace process.

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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/731/Add.2), which contains the financial performance report of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for the period from 16 May 1995 to 12 January 1996. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. UNOMIG was established by the Security Council in its resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993 for an initial period of six months. Its mandate has since then been extended and adjusted by the Council in subsequent resolutions, the latest being resolution 1065 (1996) of 12 July 1996, which extended the mandate of the Observer Mission from 13 July 1996 until 31 January 1997, subject to a review by the Council of the mandate of UNOMIG in the event of any changes that may be made in the mandate of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peacekeeping force.

3. The report of the Secretary-General (A/50/731/Add.2) contains information on the financial performance of UNOMIG for the period from 16 May 1995 to 12 January 1996. The report also outlines the action required to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session in connection with the financing of UNOMIG.

4. As indicated in paragraph 9 of the report, total expenditure for the period from 16 May 1995 to 12 January 1996 amounts to $9,978,000 gross ($9,502,400 net), compared to an appropriation of $11,948,718 gross ($11,220,568 net) provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/231 B of 12 July 1995, the resulting unencumbered balance being $1,970,718. In addition, the Advisory Committee was informed during its deliberations that, as at 23 September 1996, outstanding assessment stood at $9,014,272.

5. The unencumbered balance of $1,970,718 results primarily from savings for air operations, military personnel costs, civilian personnel costs, other equipment and staff assessment, as indicated in annexes I and II of the report.

6. Savings totalling $893,800 are indicated under item 6, air operations. They result basically from the early release of the fixed-wing aircraft for which the contractor was unable to obtain the necessary landing permits allowing for its effective operation. A Fokker F-27 fixed-wing aircraft, subsequently provided as a voluntary contribution by the Government of Switzerland, replaced the aircraft and the practical problems involved were solved. Under this new arrangement the Mission only incurs costs related to airport handling fees and aircrew subsistence allowance.

7. Savings amounting to $198,000 were also realized under item 1, military personnel costs. The bulk of it, or $189,000, was related to mission subsistence allowance, owing to the departure of military observers prior to the arrival of their replacement in the mission area. The Secretariat confirmed, however, that this time lag had not affected the mandate of the Mission.

8. An amount of $533,300 was saved under item 2, civilian personnel costs. Of that total, $375,100 corresponds to international staff salaries of $197,300 to mission subsistence allowance, resulting from a higher than expected vacancy rate owing to the time lag in the rotation of staff, as indicated in paragraph 5 of annex II to the report. However, additional requirements for local staff salaries resulted from the implementation of two salary increases effective 1 May 1995 and 1 June 1995 for a total of $90,100. The Advisory Committee sought further clarification from the Secretariat on the matter, inquiring as to the basis for the salary increases and whether they could not have been anticipated, as is the case with the regular budget.

9. In this regard, the Advisory Committee was informed that the salary increases were based on surveys carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The first salary increase, effective 1 May 1995, was the result of an interim survey, representing an across the board increase of 37 per cent. The second increase, of 13 per cent, effective 1 June 1995, was authorized following a comprehensive salary survey conducted by UNDP. Provision for the increases could not have been included in the budget for the period under review, since they were not approved by the Office of Human Resources Management until July 1995 and January 1996, respectively.

10. The Advisory Committee was informed that in annex IV of the report, the authorized staffing column should read 139 instead of 136 for the total of civilian staff.

11. The committee notes an overrun of $11,200 under transport operations. As indicated in paragraph 13 of annex II of the report, this was due to higher than anticipated costs related to spare parts, repairs and maintenance for vehicles transferred from other missions. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that most of the vehicles had already been utilized by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), which, coupled with the rugged terrain and poor road conditions in Georgia, had increased the repairs on those vehicles.

12. Paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report indicates that the action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the Observer Mission is a decision on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $1,970,718 gross ($1,718,168 net). The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance be credited to Member States against their assessment for the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.